

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled) A method for reducing compressive force on soft tissues disposed between a bone and a supporting structure, the steps comprising:
implanting a permanent magnet in the bone; and
imbedding a magnet in the supporting structure with its polarity aligned to create an opposing force with respect to the implanted magnet.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing compressive force on soft tissues disposed between a bone and a supporting structure, the steps comprising:
implanting a permanent magnet in the bone; and
imbedding a magnet in the supporting structure with its polarity aligned to create an opposing force with respect to the implanted magnet; and

~~The method as recited in claim 1~~ in which the bone is the ischial tuberosity of the pelvis of a human seated in a wheelchair and the supporting structure is the seat of the wheelchair.

3. (Canceled) The method as recited in claim 1 in which implanting the permanent magnet includes implanting a container in the bone, waiting for a selected period of time which enables the bone to firmly retain the container in place, and then inserting the permanent magnet into the container.

4 (Canceled) A magnet assembly for reducing compressive forces on soft tissue disposed between a bone in a subject and a supporting structure, the combination comprising:

a first permanent magnet suitable for implantation into the bone; and
a second permanent magnet fastened to the supporting structure and arranged such that a repelling force is produced that acts on the first and second magnets to reduce the compressive force acting on the soft tissues disposed therebetween.

5. (Canceled) The magnet assembly as recited in claim 4 in which the magnet assembly further includes a container for the first permanent magnet.

6. (Canceled) The magnet assembly as recited in claim 5 in which the container is constructed of porous metal suitable for implantation in the bone.

7. (Currently Amended) A magnet assembly for reducing compressive forces on soft tissue disposed between a bone in a subject and a supporting structure, the combination comprising:

a first permanent magnet suitable for implantation into the bone; and
a second permanent magnet fastened to the supporting structure and arranged such that a repelling force is produced that acts on the first and second magnets to reduce the compressive force acting on the soft tissues disposed therebetween; and

~~The magnet assembly as recited in claim 4 in which the supporting structure is the seat of a wheelchair.~~

8. (New) A magnet assembly for reducing compressive forces on soft tissue disposed between a bone in a subject and a supporting structure, the combination comprising:

a first permanent magnet suitable for implantation into the bone; and
a second permanent magnet fastened to the supporting structure and arranged such that a repelling force is produced that acts on the first and second magnets to reduce the compressive force acting on the soft tissues disposed therebetween when the subject is seated on the supporting structure.

9. (New) The magnet assembly as recited in claim 8 in which the bone is the ischial tuberosity of the pelvis of a human subject.